(c) No, Sir, the State did not participate in the Government of India Scheme 'Accelerated Electrification of One Lakh villages and One crore households' launched in 2004-05 which subsequently got merged in RGGVY. Those States which participated in the scheme were ready with the project proposals and were taken up immediately. Jharkhand Government submitted DPRs during the second half of 2005-06 and by the time, the approved outlay of Rs. 5000 crore had already been committed by way of sanction of 125 projects. It was only in the last quarter of the financial year 2006-07 that the Ministry of Power succeeded in getting approval to go beyond Rs. 5000 crore and thus 110 more projects in addition to the 125 projects were made eligible for release of funds in Phase-I of the scheme. These 110 projects cover 13 projects of Jharkhand.

The implementing agencies have reported award of ten projects. State Government of Jharkhand/implementing agencies have not reported electrification of any village so far. Jharkhand has availed an amount of Rs. 288.74 crore as on 31.03.2007.

(d) As per 22 Detailed Project Reports received from Jharkhand Government, the proposal is for relase of 16,93,291 Below Poverty Line (BPL) connections. 13 projects which have been sanctioned, cover 9.5 lakh BPL households.

(e) As estimated by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the Nodal Agency for RGGVY, it is targeted to cover 2,720 un-electrified villages for electrification and 1,115 electrified villages for intensive electrification in Jharkhand for 2007-08. RGGVY envisages electrification of all un-electrified villages in the country including Jharkhand by 2009.

Power shortage due to power plant outages

4228. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that acute gas shortage coupled with high plant outages is responsible for galloping peak power deficits throughout the country from around 9,500 MW in 2003-04 to an estimated 14,290 MW during April, 2006 - February, 2007 (an almost 50 per cent increase in 3 years);

(b) whether it is a fact that 47,000-50,000 million units of electricity are not produced on account of 'forced outages'; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to minimize the power plant outages?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The country continues to face peaking power shortage over the years which has, in fact, increased from 9,500 MW in 2003-04 to 14,290 MW during April, 2006 - February, 2007. Although shortage of gas and outage of power plants are responsible for continued shortage of power, the main reason for peaking power shortage as well as energy shortage is inadequate capacity addition during Tenth Plan in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. The generation loss due to forced outages of coal based power stations, during 2004-05 and 2005-06 has been of the order of 47,000-50,000 million units.

(c) In order to minimize forced outages of generating plants, periodic maintenance is carried out as per the recommendations of the manufacturers. Further, renovation and modernization (R&M) and life extension (LE) of old and inefficient generating units are also carried out as part of R&M and LE programme.

Funds for institutions in Andhra Pradesh

4229. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are allocating sufficient funds to the institutions under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the funds utilized so far, year-wise; and

(d) the new institutions to come up in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.